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pivots away from said recording section, a space is provided above said recording section,
and said recording section is exposed outside through said space.

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

Sub C4 }
--21. A multi-function device comprising:
an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a
lower side;
a shaft supported on said outer casing;
BO
a recording section that records images on a recording medium; and
a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section
having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a
back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading
section being disposed above said shaft and rotatable about said shaft to separate from said
recording section, whereby a space is provided above said recording section.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and new claim 21 is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)) and claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

The Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-20 is gratefully acknowledged. Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Nguyen in the August 6, 2002 telephone interview.

I. Claims 1-20 Define Patent Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,359,435 to Hayashi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, it is submitted that claim 1 which has been amended in accordance with the Proposed Amendment forwarded to Examiner Nguyen on July 18, 2002 and again on July 30, 2002, is patentable over at least Hayashi as confirmed during the August 6, 2002 telephone interview. Claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 10 are also patentable over Hayashi for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 8, 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of U.S. Patent 5,523,848 to Musso. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, it is submitted that Musso fails to supply the deficiencies of Hayashi with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 5, 8, 9 and 11 are patentable over the combination of applied references for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Claim 21 Defines Patentable Subject Matter

New claim 21 recites substantially the same features as originally filed claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that, given the Examiner's new understanding of the claimed invention resulting from the August 6, 2002 telephone interview, claim 21 defines patentable subject matter.

In particular, it is submitted that Hayashi does not suggest or disclose a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front edge of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the

front edge, left and right walls and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and rotatable about said shaft to separate from said recording section, whereby a space is provided above said recording section, as recited in new claim 21.

This claim sufficiently conveys that the reading section sits above the shaft in a vertical direction and is rotatable about the shaft to separate from the recording section. The expression "rotatable about said shaft" implies that the shaft is the fixed pivot point around which the reading section rotates. This is illustrated in Figure 7 of the present application. As discussed in the August 6, 2002 telephone interview, this feature appears to distinguish over Hayashi.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 - 21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PDM/kys

Attachments:
Appendix
Request for Continued Examination

Date: August 7, 2002

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claim 21 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

1. (Amended) ~~An~~ A multi-functional device comprising:
an outer casing having a front side, a rear side opposing the front side, and a lower side;
a shaft supported on said outer casing;
a recording section that records images on a recording medium; and
a reading section that reads images from a document, said reading section having a front edge substantially in coincidence with the front side of said outer casing, a back edge opposing the front edge, left and right walls, and a lower surface, said reading section being disposed above said shaft and ~~rotatable~~ pivotable about said shaft ~~to separate from said recording section, whereby,~~ wherein when said reading section pivots away from said recording section, a space is provided above said recording section, and said recording section is exposed outside through said space.